

### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (canceled)**

1           **Claim 2 (currently amended):** A method for determining  
2           a threshold value ( $O_{\max}$ ,  $O_{\min}$ ,  $O_{TR}$ ) serving to limit an output  
3           signal of a processing unit into which an input signal has  
4           been fed, characterized in that a level of the input signal  
5           is determined and that the threshold value ( $O_{\max}$ ,  $O_{\min}$ ,  $O_{TR}$ )  
6           is controlled as a function of the level of the input  
7           signal, wherein from the said level a mean level ( $I$ ) is  
8           derived on the basis of which the threshold value ( $O_{\max}$ ,  $O_{\min}$ ,  
9            $O_{TR}$ ) is controlled.

1           **Claim 3 (currently amended):** The method as in claim  
2           2, wherein the threshold value ( $O_{TR}$ ) is controlled by a  
3           differential amount ( $TR_{max}$ ) above the mean level ( $I$ ) of the  
4           input signal.

1           **Claim 4 (previously presented):**   The method as in  
2       claim 2, wherein the mean level (I) is derived from the  
3       input signal  $s(t)$  along the following formula:

$$I = \frac{1}{T} \times \int_0^T |s(t)| \times dt$$

5           whereby an averaging function is performed over a time  
6   interval T.

**Claims 5-8 (canceled)**

1           **Claim 9 (previously presented):** The method as in  
2   claim 3, wherein the differential amount ( $TR_{\max}$ ) is adjusted  
3   along a compression ratio for a hearing-impaired person.

1           **Claim 10 (original):** Application of the method per  
2   one of the claims 1 to 9 for operating a hearing aid.

1           **Claim 11 (previously presented):** Application of the  
2   method per claim 6 for operation of a hearing aid by a  
3   hearing-impaired person.

**Claims 12-20 (canceled)**